

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC New York (100-107111) DATE: 11/21/68  
FROM : SA [REDACTED] (642) b7c  
SUBJECT: Committee To Free Morton Sobell  
15-C  
15A, 1950

In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated 11/3/68. The review for this report was made from serial 6477 through serial 6532.

In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed:

Volume	Serials (List by serial or serial scope.)
132	6477, 6478, 6480, 6481, 6482, 6483, 6485, 6486, 6490, 6495
(133)	6503, 6507, 6513, 6514, 6525, 6527, 6528, 6529, 6530, 6531, 6532, 6557

No. of copies 2

Approved [Signature]

Destroyed by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Rosenberg/Schell Committee

FILE NO. 100 - 107 111

VOLUME NO. 134

SERIALS 6561

Thru

6625

File No: 100-107111Re: SOBELL COMMITTEEDate: 1/28  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
6561	1-9-68	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	0	
6562	1-16-69	LHM TO 6563	3	-	NY 100-37158
6563	1-16-69	NY AIRTEL TO BUREAU	1	-	NY 100-37158
6564	1-8-69	NEWSPAPER ARTICLE / DAILY WORLD	1	1	
6566	1-10-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	3	Proc. NY 100-109849
6567	1-24-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	8	-	NY-100-37158
6568	12-19-68	SA MEMO TO FILE	7	-	128869-545 NY 100- <del>102245</del> 5-662
6569	1-28-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	0	
6570	1-29-68	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	0	
6571	2-6-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	-	NY 100-37158
6572	1-24-69	MAGAZINE ARTICLE / TIME	1	1	Proc. #1265 NY 100-37158
6573	2-12-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	-	NY 100-37158

File No: 100-107111Re: SOBELL COMMITTEEDate: 1/28  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
6574	2-13-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	3	Rec'd 9/2-78 7564 <del>NY 100-109849</del>
6575	2-24-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	3	Process 1-20-78 1158 <del>NY 100-109849</del>
6576	2-26-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	5	-	NY 100-37158
6577	2-27-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	6	-	NY 100-37158
6578	2-27-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	0	
6579	2-27-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	-	NY 100-37158
6580	3-4-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	4	-	NY 100-37158
6581	3-13-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	
6582	3-10-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	2	
6583	3-14-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	0	Process 1-20-78 <del>NY 100-37158</del>
6584	3-10-69	NY LETTER TO WFO	5	-	NY 100-37158-2652
6585	3-26-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	

File No: 100-107111Re: SOBELL COMMITTEEDate: 1/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
6586	3-28-69	NY LETTER TO PH	3	-	NY 100-37158
6587	3-28-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	-	NY 100-37158
6588	4-1-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	-	NY 100-37158
6589	4-1-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	3	-	NY 100-37158
6590	3-26-69	NY LETTER TO AL	18	-	NY 100-37158
6591 <del>4586</del>	4-3-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	0	<del>NY 100-109842</del>
6592	4-3-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	0	
6593	4-4-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	3	-	NY 100-37158
6594	4-10-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	3	<del>NY 100-109842</del> 128869-550
6595	4-8-69	NY LETTER TO AL	8	-	NY 100-37158
6596	4-17-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	-	NY 100-37158
6597	4-17-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	-	NY 100-37158

File No: 100-107111Re: SO BELL COMMITTEEDate: 1/28  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
6598	4-16-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	0	NY 100-109849
6599	4-17-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	3	—	NY 100-37158
6600	4-23-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	3	0	NY 100-109849
6601	4-29-69	SF REPORT	12	12	
6602	4-29-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	1	0	NY 100-109849
6603	4-24-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	4	4	
6604	5-9-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	—	NY 100-37158
6605	5-14-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	0	
6606	5-9-69	NY LETTER TO AL	13	—	NY 100-37158
6607	5-8-69	LA REPORT	8	8	
6608	5-15-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	0	NY 100-109849
6609	5-22-69	CG REPORT	13	13	

File No: 100-107111Re: SOBELL COMMITTEEDate: 1/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
6610	6-2-69	NY LETTER TO AQ	10	-	NY 100-37158
6611	5-29-69	NY LETTER TO BUREAU	1	1	
6612	6-6-69	NY REPORT	17	13	
6613	6-10-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	2	
6614	6-16-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	2	-	NY 100-37158
6615	6-25-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	8	-	NY 100-37158
6616	7-15-69	SA MEMO TO FILE	3	-	NY 100-37158
6617	7-15-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	2	
6618	7-22-69	BUREAU LETTER TO NY	1	1	
6619	7-23-69	NY LETTER TO BUREAU	1	1	
6620	8-12-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	3	3	NY 100-109849
6621	9-10-69	SA MEMO TO SAC	1	1	

**Date:**

1128

(month/year)

**PRVING**

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

## FEDERAL BUREAU

of

## INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

100-39-2835

also Nos.

100-39-2835

100-39-2835

C. C. 4/6/69  
C. C. 4/6/69  
C. C. 4/6/69

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6561 DATE 1-9-68

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

# Sobell appeal heard for Friday release

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 — The U. S. Court of Appeals today reversed decision on Morton Sobell's eighth attempt to win freedom from his 30-year prison sentence.

If the three judge court rules in Sobell's favor, he would be eligible for parole this Friday, Jan. 10.

Sobell is basing his appeal on the contention that the seven months he served in jail before sentencing, because he could not raise \$100,000 bail, should be credited to the time he has served since his sentencing on April 5, 1951.

The government countered there was nothing in the law that credit for time served in lieu of bail must be given in all cases.

It noted that the sentencing judge, Irving R. Kaufman, had stated that "while it may be gratuitous on my part, I at this point, note my recommendation against parole."

Sobell was sentenced at the trial at which Judge Kaufman



Morton and Helen Sobell

sentenced Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to death on the charge of "conspiracy to commit war-

time espionage" — disclosing information on the atom bomb to the Soviet Union in peace time.

CLIPPING FROM  
DAILY WORK

DATED *Jan 7*  
PG 3 COL 3

100-107111-124

SEARCHED *✓* INDEXED *✓*  
SERIALIZED *✓* FILED *✓*  
JAN 14 1951  
FBI - NEW YORK  
*CS Sullivan*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] b7d

DATE: 1/10/69

FROM : SA [REDACTED] (# 42)

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)

☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7d

☐

Dates of Contact

1/2/69

Titles and File #s on which contacted

Purpose and results of contact

☐ NEGATIVE

☒ POSITIVE

☐ STATISTIC

- (1) - (100-10711) (SOBELL COMMITTEE) (41)
- 1 - (100-132801) (LEAH SCHNEIDER) (47)
- 1 - (100-89559) (MARSHALL FERLIN) (45)
- 1 - (100-109849) (HELEN SOBELL) (41)
- 1 - (100-57695) (YSOBEL SANDLER) (45)

AEC:dld

(6)

Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

EXCELLENT

Coverage

100-10711-6566

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 15 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Thurston*

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available to SA [redacted] bank records concerning the account listed on the attached FD-302 on which pertinent information was recorded. b7c, d

Information herein obtained confidentially; source's name is not to be disclosed in report or otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing.

The source no longer has custody of the basic documents from which the check information was obtained.

The original FD-302 is maintained in [redacted] b7d

(u)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 13, 1969

The following checks were among those drawn against the bank account of the SOBELL COMMITTEE:

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount	Bank of Deposit and/or Endorser
6501-	12/4/68	Cash	\$ 132.31	Leah Schneider
6502	12/4/68	Cash	104.00	Leah Schneider
6517	12/11/68	Cash	284.00	Leah Schneider
6516	12/11/68	Cash	132.31	Leah Schneider
6522	12/18/68	Cash	132.31	Leah Schneider
6523	12/18/68	Cash	254.00	Leah Schneider
6529	12/26/68	Cash	132.31	Leah Schneider
6512	12/10/68	Marshall Perlin	327.90	Chase Manhattan # 1
6510	12/9/68	Forer & Rein	1366.25	Nat'l Bk of WDC
6520	12/10/68	Forer & Rein	500.00	Nat'l Bk of WDC
6504	12/5/68	150 Estates	190.00	Chase Manhattan
6224	12/19/68	Helen Sobell	4000.00	Chem NY Tr.Co. #89 on 12/20/68
6521	12/18/68	Helen Sobell	150.00	Sobell Comm.
6525	12/19/68	Ysobel Sandler	786.80	Chase Manhattan
6527	12/19/68	Helen Sobell	25.00	Chem NY Tr.Co. Special Checking

The balance as of 12/31/68, \$4,350.36.

The above information is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is Mr. GEORGE MAJOR, Assistant Vice President, Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

On 1/2/69 at Chemical New York Trust Co., 154-Fifth Avenue File # NY 100-107111  
by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 1/8/69

FILE # 100-107111  
SUBJECT Rosenberg / Sobell Comm.  
SERIAL 6568 DATE 12/19/68  
CONSISTING OF 7 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number **36**

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6569 DATE 1-28-69

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6570 DATE 1-29-68

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number 2848.

rubble to try to discover the cause of the fire.

Initial speculation blamed the first explosion on an incoming jet with a bomb hanging from it, but this was later disproved because no aircraft was landing at the time. "All we know," said a Navy spokesman, "is that it took place in or near a Phantom. It could have been a rocket or a bomb, or a break in a hydraulic line that caused a fire and triggered the first explosion."

As serious as the *Enterprise* fire was, it could well have been far worse. The Navy had learned from tragic experience to be prepared for such a crisis. In 1966, a fire aboard U.S.S. *Oriskany* claimed the lives of 43 men, and the 1967 *Forrestal* blaze killed 134. As a result, *Enterprise* had been staffed with professional firefighters. Better equipment was provided, including improved water pumps, hoses that are less prone to break and special units that combine a chemical called "Purple K" and "light water" to produce a substance that smothers the fire with foam. Most important, the *Enterprise* crew had been thoroughly drilled in preventive tactics, which they performed superbly last week. As Chief Warrant Officer Helton put it: "That was the ultimate drill."

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### Return from Oblivion

On Aug. 18, 1950, a slight, bespectacled electronics engineer, who worked on secret U.S. defense contracts, was escorted by Mexican policemen across the international bridge at Laredo, Texas. He was immediately arrested by the FBI. Morton Sobell, then 33, had been in Mexico for two months, using a string of aliases. The U.S. Government was later to contend that Sobell had been planning to flee behind the Iron Curtain after six years of spying for the Soviet Union. Sobell vigorously denied the accusation, but his trial for espionage resulted in a 30-year jail sentence. Morton Sobell was soon forgotten by most Americans. Last week, a revenant from oblivion, he stepped off a bus in Manhattan, free on parole after serving 17 years and nine months in federal prisons. He was still proclaiming his innocence.

Thin-faced and balding, Sobell called back other ghosts from the past. In the 1930s, when he was a student at the City College of New York, he lunched from time to time in the cafeteria with Julius Rosenberg, a fellow student. Both belonged to the Young Communist League, and both worked for the U.S. Government as engineers during World War II. Later in New York, they met once again socially.

It was through Rosenberg and his wife Ethel that Sobell got into trouble. The Government later produced evidence that Sobell and the Rosenbergs did far more than pass pleasant evenings together. Sobell, said the Gov-



MORTON & HELEN SOBELL

After millions of words and \$1,000,000.

ernment, gave the Rosenbergs secret information, including details of firing control mechanisms for weapons, and recruited a high school classmate into a spy ring managed by Anatoli Yakovlev, Soviet vice consul in New York. When the Rosenbergs were tried in 1951 on charges of passing U.S. atomic secrets to Russia, Sobell was a co-defendant. Found guilty, the Rosenbergs were executed in 1953 after the failure of a worldwide crusade, mostly Communist-inspired, to save them. Sobell was not implicated in atomic thefts but was convicted of conspiring to commit espionage. He would not take the stand to defend himself.

Six Years on the Rock. "Just yesterday, I was No. 31648," Sobell told a TIME reporter in flat, lifeless tones that reflected the shock of freedom. For almost six years, he was immured on Alcatraz, the desolate "Rock" in San Francisco Bay, where the U.S. penned its most dangerous and intractable federal prisoners until it was closed down in 1963. Transferred to Atlanta Penitentiary, Sobell could at least employ his engineering skills, helping to redesign the prison's wiring system. After undergoing abdominal surgery in 1963, he was transferred to prison at Lewisburg, Pa., and allowed to study dental technology. "Prison wasn't really a living death," he says. "It's just another kind of life. All the inmates sit around and write their 2255s [petitions for judicial review of their cases]."

Sobell's wife Helen, who teaches science at a Manhattan school, never ceased to labor for his release. She spoke millions of words at protest meetings and ground out countless appeals for help on an electric typewriter, the one modern appliance in the Sobells' drab Green-

wich Village apartment. With friends who stood behind Sobell throughout his imprisonment, she spent roughly \$1,000,000 on legal maneuvers, including seven fruitless pleas to the U.S. Supreme Court. Money came from those who believed that Sobell had not received a fair trial. Among the doubters were Nobel Prize-winning chemists Harold C. Urey and Linus Pauling. Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Britain's nonage-narian nonbeliever, Bertrand Russell. Sobell, however, betrays scant enthusiasm today for continued legal battling to clear his name. In any case, after the verdict of his 1951 trial and more than a dozen later appeals, it would doubtless prove a fruitless enterprise.

"TIME"  
MAGAZINE

11/24/69

original copy  
in 100-37155  
(Morton Sobell)

6m

100-107111-657

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 11 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

MILLIKEN - 1 cm

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] b7d

FROM : SA [REDACTED] (42)  
b7c

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7d

DATE: 2/13/69

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)  
☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R  
☐

**Dates of Contact**

2/13/69

**Titles and File #s on which contacted**

**Purpose and results of contact**

☐ NEGATIVE  
☒ POSITIVE  
☐ STATISTIC

(1-100-107111 (SOBELL COMMITTEE) (41)  
1-100-109849 (HELEN SOBELL) (41)  
1-100-132801 (LEAH SCHNEIDER) (47)  
1-100-10469 (AARON KATZ) (33)  
AEC:rlp

(5)

Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

EXCELLENT

Coverage

100-107111-6574

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 13 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Mulliken*

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available to SA [redacted] bank records concerning the account named in the attached FD-302 on which pertinent information was recorded. b7c,d

Information herein obtained confidentially; source's name is not to be disclosed in report or otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing.

The source no longer has custody of the basic documents from which the check information was obtained.

The original FD-302 is maintained in [redacted] b7d

(u)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date 2/13/69

The following checks were among those drawn against the bank account of Sobell Committee :

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount	Bank of Depos and/or Endors
6598	1/13/69	HELEN SOBELL	\$2500.00	Chem NYT Co.
6536	12/27/68	Forer & Rein	500.00	Nat'l Bk of Wash., D.C.
(u) 6549	1/13/69	Forer & Rein	592.35	Nat'l Bk of Wash., D.C.
6556	1/15/69	Cash	131.72	LEAH SCHNEIDER
6551	1/13/69	AARON KATZ	15.00	Amalgamated
6550	1/13/69	Hecla Press	250.00	1st Nat'l City
6554	1/15/69	Cash	500.00	LEAH SCHNEIDER
6559	1/17/69	Mrs. THEODORE THAYER	25.00	Chem NYT Co.
6573	1/29/69	Cash	84.00	LEAH SCHNEIDER

The balance as of 1/31/69, \$2154.94.

The above information is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is Mr. GEORGE MAJOR, Assistant Vice President, Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

On 2/3/69 at Chemical New York Trust Co. File # NY 100-107111  
154 Fifth Avenue

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 2/7/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] b7d

FROM : SA [REDACTED] (42) b7c

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7d

DATE: 2/24/69

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)  
☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R  
☐

Dates of Contact

2/17/69

Titles and File #s on which contacted

Purpose and results of contact

☐ NEGATIVE  
☒ POSITIVE  
☐ STATISTIC

1-100-109849 (HELEN L. SOBELL) (41)

1-100-107111 (SOBEL COMMITTEE) (41)

AEC:rlp

(3)

Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

EXCELLENT

Coverage

100-107111-6575

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
FEB 24 1969  
FBI - NEW YORK

41  
Mulliken

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available to SA [redacted] bank records concerning the account named in the attached FD-302 on which pertinent information was recorded. b7c, d

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The source no longer has custody of the basic documents from which the check information was obtained.

(u) The original FD-302 is maintained in [redacted] b7d

1.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/24/69

The following checks were among those drawn from the bank account of HELEN L. SOBELL:

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Bank of Deposit and/or Endorser</u>
(u) 46-3	1/23/69	Cash	\$2500.00	West Side Savin. 165 Varick St. #30205

The balance as of 2/13/69, \$569.79.

The above information is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is Mr. GEORGE MAJOR, Assistant Vice President, Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY.

On 2/17/69 at Chemical New York Trust Co.  
154 Fifth Avenue File # NY 100-109849

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 2/24/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6578 DATE 2-27-69

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

157-111  
SAC 1  
SAC 2  
SAC 3  
SAC 4  
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SAC 99  
SAC 100

TO :

SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111)

DATE: 3/13/69

FROM :

SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL  
IS - C  
(OO:NY)

On 3/11/69, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Americana Hotel, New York City furnished the writer with an envelope containing a magnetic tape of certain speeches made at a reception sponsored by above organization and held at the Americana Hotel on 3/9/69. This envelope also contained two booklets of poems by MRS. MORTON SOBELL which were distributed at this reception.

[REDACTED] attended above reception and has submitted a detailed written report concerning this matter. Any pertinent information contained in above tape and not included informant's report will be properly reported in the next New York report on subject organization.

Above tape and poems are being made exhibits of NY file 100-107111.

100-107111-6581  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAY 4 1969  
FBI - NEW YORK  
mml:hen

CLASSIFIED BY 4913 a/c/pad 8/6/78  
EXEMPT FROM G.S. CATEGORY 2  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6582 DATE 3-10-69

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES of which  
page 3

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

b7d

DATE: 3/10/69

SAC [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

b7c  
(42)

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)  
☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R  
☐

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b7d

Date of Contact 3/3/69		
Titles and File # on which contacted       		
Purpose and results of contact  <input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STATISTIC  1-100-107111 (SOBELL COMMITTEE) (41) 1-100-128869 (ROSE SOBELL) (46) [REDACTED] b7c AEC:rip (4)		
NA Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating EXCELLENT	Coverage 100-107111-6582
		SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED MAR 1 1969 FBI - NEW YORK [Signature]

b7d  
[redacted] who has furnished reliable  
information in the past, made available to SA  
b7c [redacted] concerning  
[redacted] b7d

Information herein obtained confidentially;  
source's name is not to be disclosed in report or  
otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that  
he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing.

The source no longer has custody of the  
basic documents from which [redacted]  
was obtained. b7d


The original FD-302 is maintained in  
[redacted]  
b7d

FILE # 100 - 107111

SUBJECT Rosenberg / Sobell Comm.

SERIAL 6583 DATE 3/14/69

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : ADIC (100-107111)

FROM : [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

DATE: 3/26/69

This case is being placed in a pending status for the preparation of a report which is due on 5/8/69.

KRB:fam  
(1)

*fam*

Chief Clerk  
Post *Reid*

*KRB*

OPEN (OR REOPEN) CASE  
ORIGIN DATE  
SUPV SECT

100-107111-6585

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
41 MAR 26 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	


*[Signature]*

b7c



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FILE # 100-10711  
SUBJECT Rosenberg/Schell Conn.  
SERIAL 65-91 DATE 4-3-69  
CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6592 DATE 4-3-69

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] b7d DATE: 4/10/69

FROM : SA [REDACTED] (# 42)

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7d

## Dates of Contact

4/1/69

## Titles and File #s on which contacted

## Purpose and results of contact

- ☐ NEGATIVE  
☒ POSITIVE  
☐ STATISTIC

1-PHILADELPHIA (100-MURRAY M. MYERS) (RM)  
 ① 100-107111 (SENATE COMMITTEE) (41)  
 1-100-113955 (SAM RAY) (47)  
 1-100-109049 (NORMAN SOBELL) (41)  
 1-100-0-145090 (ROGER PRYCE) (45)  
 1-100-128869 (ROSE SOBELL) (46)  
 1-100-132601 (LEAH SCHNEIDER) (47)

AEC:AMW  
 (6)

☒ Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

EXCELLENT

Coverage

100-107111-6594

SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED

APR 17 1969

FBI - NEW YORK

41

C. M. Miller

[REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available to SA [REDACTED], bank records concerning the account named in the attached FD-302 on which pertinent information was recorded. b7c, d

Information herein obtained confidentially; source's name is not to be disclosed in report or otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing.

The source no longer has custody of the basic documents from which the check information was obtained.

The original FD-302 is maintained in [REDACTED] b7d

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/691.

The following checks were among those drawn against the bank account of Sobell Committee:

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount	Bank of Deposit And/or Endorser
6612	3/11/69	Moss Mailing Service	\$ 53.56	Mfrs. Han. Tr. Co.
6611	"	150 Estates	190.00	Chase Manhattan
6601	3/4/69	SAM KAMEN	350.00	HELEN L. SOBELL
6606	"	HELEN SOBELL	660.00	West Side Savings
6599	"	Hecla Press	300.00	Chemical Bank
6607	3/5/69	ROGER PRYOR	25.00	Mfrs. Han. Tr. Co.
6581	3/6/69	MOREY M. MYERS, Esq.	400.00	Third Nat'l Scranton, Pa.
6615	3/13/69	ROSE SOBELL	100.00	Chemical Bank
6617	3/20/69	Cash	334.00	LEAH SCHNEIDER
6623	3/28/69	HELEN L. SOBELL	150.00	Chemical Bank

The balance as of 3/31/69, \$1596.14.


The above information is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is Mr. GEORGE MAJOR, Assistant Vice President, Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

On 4/1/69 at Chemical New York Trust Co.  
154 Fifth Avenue File # NY 100-107111

by SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 4/7/69

FILE # 100-10714  
SUBJECT Rosenberg/Sobell Comm.  
SERIAL 6598 DATE 4-16-69  
CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES


is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

FILE # 100-10714

SUBJECT Rosenberg, Robert Comm

SERIAL 6600 DATE 4-23-59

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>4/29/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/1 - 25/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL, aka Committee to Secure Justice For Morton Sobell</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>BBB</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>IS - C; ISA, 1950</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA **[REDACTED] b7C** 11/29/68 at San Francisco.

- P\* -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The officers of the Committee to Free MORTON SOBELL named in this report are listed in the Security Index of the San Francisco Office.

This report is classified ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ because it contains data furnished by SF T-1 and SF T-2, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in the identification of a confidential informant of continuing value and thus have an adverse effect upon the national defense interest of the United States.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 5 - Bureau (100-387835) (RM) 2 - 115th MIG, San Francisco (RM) 1 - NISO, San Francisco (RM) 1 - OSI, Travis AFB (RM) 1 - Los Angeles (100-41648) (INFO) (RM) 2 - New York (100-107111) (RM) 4 - San Francisco (100-35111)		SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED MAY 5 1969 FBI - NEW YORK <b>[Signature]</b>
Agency Request Recd. Date Fwd. How Fwd. By		Notations <b>b7C</b> <b>100-107111-6604</b>

SF 100-35117  
GOW:sag

Copies of this report have been designated for local intelligence agencies for information purposes.

One copy of this report is being designated for the Los Angeles Office because of the former close alliance between the Los Angeles Committee and the Sobell Committee in San Francisco.

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File Where Located

[REDACTED]

B7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LEADS:

SAN FRANCISCO

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. Will follow and report any activities of captioned organization in the San Francisco area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Copy to:

- 1 - 115th MIG, San Francisco, (RM)
- 1 - NISO, San Francisco (RM)
- 1 - OSI, Travis AFB (RM)

## Report of:

## Date:

4/29/69

Office: San Francisco, California

## Field Office File #:

100-35117

Bureau File #: 100-387835

## Title:

COMMITTEE TO FREE  
MORTON SOBELL

## Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - COMMUNIST;  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

## Synopsis:

The Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees (BACSC) continues to receive mail at 345 Franklin Street, San Francisco, California.

WALTER BELLINGS and ESTHER CAMPBELL continue as chairman and secretary, respectively, for the BACSC. A source advised on 4/29/69, that there have been no formal meetings of the Committee for the

- P\* -

DETAILS:

A characterization of the Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees (BACSC) also known as the Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell, is contained in the Appendix of this report.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

BAY AREA COUNCIL OF SOBELL COMMITTEES

I. HEADQUARTERS

As of April 9, 1969, there was no formal headquarters for the BACSC, although mail is still received by the BACSC at 345 Franklin Street, San Francisco, California.

II. OFFICERS

WARREN K. BILLING and ESTHER LAMPEL are chairman and secretary, respectively, for the BACSC.

[REDACTED] informed on [REDACTED] that ESTHER SKLAR, also known as ESTHER LAMPEL, was Communist Party (CP) organizer of Unit 18, City Terrace, Los Angeles County CP; that she had joined CP in 1928, and that, in 1935, she was reported as having been transferred from New York.

[REDACTED] stated SKLAR formerly had been a member of District 2, CP, New York, and when she first came to Los Angeles, she had been assigned to Unit J-4, Hollywood Section, Los Angeles County CP, and was Dues Secretary of that Unit.

[REDACTED] further stated that in 1938 ESTHER SKLAR, an unemployed millinery worker residing at 2422-1/2 Pomeroy Avenue, Los Angeles, California, who had held an executive position in Cap Makers Local 22, had attended the CP Workers School in

SF 100-35117  
GOW/sag/sms

Los Angeles, and was in 1938 assigned to the Needle Trades Unit 5, Industrial Section, Los Angeles County CP.

The December 3, 1961 issue of the "People's World" (PW) newspaper identified WARREN K. BILLINGS as the person who was "recently" pardoned for his participation in the 1916 Preparedness Day bombing with TOM MOONEY.

The PW is a West Coast Communist newspaper published weekly in San Francisco, California.

On March 27, 1953, WARREN K. BILLINGS informed Special Agents of the FBI that he was not and had never been a member of the CP, but described himself as a "philosophical anarchist."

### III. ACTIVITIES

The BACSC has not held any formal meetings during the past twelve months.

SF T-1, [REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] SF T-2 furnished a copy of a letter from the Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees at 345 Franklin Street, Room 302, San Francisco, California, signed by WARREN K. BILLINGS, Chairman, announcing that the last official act of the San Francisco Sobell Committee would be a major affair to celebrate MORTON SOBELL's freedom on April 11, 1969, at the El Dorado Room, Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, California. The guest speaker was listed as "ALBERT MALTZ, famous author and playwright. The letter also announced that MORTON SOBELL was home with his family again and that the Sobell Committees throughout the country were being reorganized for the long-term historic task of vindicating the memory of ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG and clearing the name of MORTON SOBELL. The letter announced that there is an urgent need to protect the rights of MORTON SOBELL during the next twelve years of mandatory release while he continues to be under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. The letter went on to say that it was the opinion of local Sobell Committees that after all the debts of the "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" have been paid in full and funds allocated for the operation of the reorganized committee, the remaining moneys

SF 100-35117  
GOW/sag/sms

should be placed in a MORTON SOBELL fund to be used by him to re-establish himself after his 18 years of imprisonment.

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on March 29, 1951, of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The ROSENBERGs were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and were legally executed at Sing Sing, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953.

The November 4, 1951 issue of the "San Francisco Chronicle," a San Francisco daily newspaper, in an article entitled "A Report On What Has Happened to the Hollywood Ten" reported that "all but one of the famous 'Hollywood Ten'--seven writers, two directors, and a producer--who startled the Nation and brought undying shame on the film business by taking jail sentences for contempt of Congress rather than speak up concerning their affiliation or sympathies with the Communist Party (CP), have turned to other fields for a livelihood. . . ." The article listed ALBERT MALTZ as one of the "Hollywood Ten" and reported that he was living in Cuernavaca, Mexico, writing a novel and a play.

The Fourth Report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California dated 1948 reported on Page 116 that "ALBERT MALTZ is an important Communist in the solar system of Communist front organizations." This report also revealed that according to testimony before the Thomas Committee in Washington, D. C., on October 28, 1947, ALBERT MALTZ held CP Card Number 47196.

The Fifth Report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California dated 1949, reported on Page 498 that ALBERT MALTZ was one of ten individuals who have been affiliated with from 31 to 40 Communist front organizations.

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1

**BAY AREA COUNCIL OF SOBELL COMMITTEES**

also known as

Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell,  
Northern California Council of Sobell Committees

A source advised on October 31, 1955, that the Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees (BACSC) was formed on October 17, 1955, in San Francisco, California, as the local affiliate of the National Sobell Committee to carry out the policies of the National Committee to obtain the freedom of MORTON SOBELL.

On April 10, 1958, a second source advised that there was no formal headquarters of the BACSC but that mail is still received by the BACSC at 345 Franklin Street, San Francisco. The BACSC is dormant at the present time and has not held any formal meetings during the past twelve months.

On December 18, 1959, a third source advised that MARY KRVAR, a member of the Warehouse Club, Communist Party (CP), East Bay Region, Oakland, California, and the paid organizer for the BACSC, has stated that the CP is interested in controlling the BACSC so that the BACSC will continue to follow the line of the National Sobell Committee in attempting to obtain the freedom of MORTON SOBELL.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1.

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago, in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case'...."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The Address Telephone Directory for the Borough of Manhattan, New York City, published by the New York Telephone Company on April 12, 1968, lists the above Committee's address as 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

April 28, 1969

Title COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character IS - C; ISA, 1950

Reference Report of [REDACTED] at San Francisco dated and captioned as above.

B7C

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

# Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees

345 FRANKLIN STREET, RM. 302

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

UNDERHILL 1-1324

March 18, 1969

HONORARY SPONSORS OF  
National Committee  
To Secure Justice  
For Morton Sobell  
(partial listing)

Gov. Ross W. Alexander  
David Andrews  
Abbi J. S. Bass  
Jules M. Boardley  
So Berman  
Abbi Samuel Bernstein  
Harold A. Crossfield  
Joyd Donnell  
Prof. Kenneth Eby  
Gov. John E. Evans  
Abbi Morris Fishman  
Gov. Kenneth Ripley Forbes  
Valdo Frank  
Gov. C. Stambert Frye  
Gov. Erwin A. Goode  
Harwell Goleman  
Abbi Robert E. Goldberg  
Prof. Erwin R. Goodenough  
Abbi Avery Grossfield  
Mr. A. Eustace Hayden  
Russell Johnson  
Gov. John Paul Jones  
Gov. Joseph P. King  
Mr. Milton Lester  
Daniel G. Marshall  
Mr. Leo Mayer  
Jude F. McCabe  
Gov. Peter McCormack  
Mr. Gardner Murphy  
Gov. Dryden Lindsey Phelps  
Prof. Dale Postins  
Howard B. Radest  
Prof. Anatol Rapoport  
Lord Bertrand Russell  
Prof. Malcolm Sharp  
Dr. D. R. Sharpe  
Gov. Francis S. Tashen  
Dr. Harold C. Urey  
Mrs. Clara M. Vincent  
Abbi Jacob J. Weinstein  
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

Dear Friends:

We joyfully, if belatedly, bring you the happy news that Morton Sobell is home again with his family; that he is already hard at work attending graduate engineering school; that he is beginning to write a book and is attempting to keep up with the many demands being made upon him by Radio and TV.

The Sobell Committees throughout the country are being reorganized for the long term historic task of vindicating the memory of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and clearing the name of Morton Sobell. There is also the urgent need to protect the rights of Morton Sobell during the next twelve years of mandatory release while he continues to be under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General.

The opinion of local Sobell Committees is that after all the debts of the "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" have been paid in full, and funds allocated for the operation of the reorganized committee, the remaining moneys should be placed in a Morton Sobell Fund to be used by him to re-establish himself after his eighteen years of imprisonment. The last official act of the San Francisco Sobell Committee will be a major affair to celebrate Morton Sobell's freedom.

Through the many years we all worked together for Sobell's release and shared the hardship and anguish. Now we ask all our friends to share our joy in celebrating his freedom. An invitation to this celebration is enclosed. We also urge you to make a substantial contribution. This will be used to pay all the outstanding debts.

We are looking forward to your presence. We are confident that with your generous help this celebration will be a joyous occasion for all our friends.

Morton Sobell asked that his heartfelt gratitude be extended to all of you for your continuous understanding and generous help.

Sincerely yours,

*Wane K. Billings*

*It is our pleasure to invite you  
to celebrate with us*

*Morton Sobell's Freedom  
Friday, April 11, 1969 at 8 p.m.*

*Eldorado Room, Jack Tar Hotel  
Van Ness Avenue and Geary Street  
San Francisco*

*Guest Speaker*

*Albert Maltz  
Famous author and playwright*

*Refreshments at 8:30 p.m.*

*Program at 9:00 p.m.*

*Entertainment*

*Donation \$2.25*




**BAY AREA COUNCIL OF SOBELL COMMITTEES**

**345 FRANKLIN STREET**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102**

FILE # 100-10711  
SUBJECT Rosenberg / Sobell Comm.  
SERIAL 6602 DATE 4-29-69  
CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC NY 100-107111 # 41 DATE: 4/24/69

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT:

SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION CHARACTERIZATION  
IS -

*Committee to free Morton Sobell*

THE DEADLINE FOR THIS PROJECT IS MAY 20, 1969.

Pursuant to instructions set forth in Part II, Section 4, pages 21-23, of the Manual of Rules and Regulations, the NYO must submit annually by June 1st certain information concerning the characterization of organizations.

The above-captioned organization is among those organizations on which a characterization has previously been submitted and should be brought up to date, or one on which a characterization should be submitted.

SA [REDACTED] is assigned to review the existing characterization on captioned organization to determine if the characterization is current, or to review the case file and prepare an original characterization where none exists. b7c

All characterizations should be rewritten to reflect current status of the organization and should be clear and concise. They should reflect date organization formed; its aims and purposes; subversive initiation, domination, or control; and current status. In those instances in which the nature of the organization has changed from legitimate to subversive or vice versa, such changes should be clearly shown, together with the dates thereof. Information in the characterization should be attributed to "a source" and no "T" symbols nor evaluation of the sources should be reflected in the characterization. The identity and evaluation of the sources used should be reflected at the end of the characterization under the heading "Sources," with sufficient spacing to indicate it is not part of the characterization.

BMN:rich

100-107111-6603



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

b7c

NY

Characterizations of organizations will fall in one of the following categories:

- (A) Organizations which have become defunct since June 1, 1968.
- (B) Newly formed organizations on which cases are pending and concerning which insufficient information exists as yet to prepare a characterization.
- (C) All active organizations on which characterizations are being submitted for approval.

If the case you are reviewing for this project falls in Category "A", merely submit a memorandum for file, with a copy for the subversive organization file (100-90311), reflecting Bureau file and date characterization submitted to Bureau reflecting organization is defunct. If the organization is newly formed, submit a memorandum for file with a copy for the subversive organization file (100-90311) reflecting Bureau file and a statement reflecting information set out in Category "B". These memoranda should be forwarded to SA [REDACTED] Section 41. b7c

If the organization falls within Category "C", then prepare an up-to-date characterization, except in those cases where a current characterization has been submitted since April 1, 1969. In the latter case, merely submit a memorandum as above, reflecting date characterization submitted and Bureau file number.

Pursuant to current Bureau instructions the up-to-date characterization must be submitted to the Bureau on letterhead stationery which should be prepared as follows:

LETTERHEAD STATIONERY

New York, New York

Bureau file 100-  
New York file 100-

Re: NAME OF ORGANIZATION  
SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION CHARACTERIZATION  
(CHARACTER OF CASE)

Place characterization here.

2 - Bureau (100- )  
1 - New York (100-90311) (SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION  
CHARACTERIZATION) (#41)  
1 - New York (100- )

NY.

The copies to the Bureau will consist of the original and one copy. The copy should consist of only the first page of the letterhead memorandum. If approved, the Bureau will stamp "Approved" on the single-page copy and return it to the NYO.

At the time that you have the letterhead memorandum prepared, also have a 5 X 8 card typed reflecting the name of the organization at the upper left, Agent's name at top center, and the NY file number at upper right. Then have the characterization, identity and evaluation of sources typed on the remainder of the card. Have your supervisor initial the card at lower left corner at the same time he initials the letterhead memorandum for transmittal to the Bureau. The letterhead memorandum, with card attached, should be forwarded to SA [REDACTED] Section 41, and the letterhead memorandum will then be transmitted to the Bureau by means of a cover letter. The card will be retained by SA [REDACTED] pending Bureau approval of the characterization. b7c

Because of the many times each of these characterizations will be reproduced, you are urged to be as brief as possible. Try to get all the necessary information in one short paragraph using one source if possible, rather than several sources. It may be necessary to prepare a new characterization and have it authenticated by an informant. In no case should the characterization be more than one page.

Remember NOT TO DATE the letterhead to the Bureau and submit all memoranda to [REDACTED] SECTION 41, BY MAY 20, 1969. b7c

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6605 DATE 5-14-69

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

ARE

to exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>5/8/69</b>	EXPIRATION PERIOD <b>11/14/68 - 5/1/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL, Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>IS - C ISA, 1950 b7c</b>

REFERENCE: Report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated 11/14/68,  
at Los Angeles.

ADMINISTRATIVE

This case is being placed in pending inactive due to MORTON SOBELL's release from prison and the committee's disbanding. Six months hence, the file will again be reviewed and if there is no further activity on the part of the committee, this case will be closed.

This report is classified confidential because data furnished by Los Angeles could reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise their future effectiveness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS		

APPROVED **KG**  
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**100-107111-6607**

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**2. New York**

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

**b7c**

LA 100-41648

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- 1 - San Diego (100-9380) (Info) (RM)
- 1 - San Francisco (100-35117) (Info) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (100-41648)

One copy each of this report is being furnished to Chicago, San Diego, and San Francisco for their information since it has been established there is a close alliance between the Los Angeles Committee and the Sobell Committee of these areas

INFORMANTS

SOURCE

LOCATION

LA T-1

LA T-2

LA T-3

LA T-4

LA T-5

- B -  
COVER PAGE

LA 100-41648

LA T-6

LA T-7

LA T-8

LA T-9

LA T-10

B7d

- C\* -  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to: 1 - NISO, San Diego (RM)  
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1 - OSI, Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino (RM)

Report of: [REDACTED] b7c  
Date: 5/8/69

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #: 100-41648

Bureau File #: 100-387835

Title: COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

Synopsis: As of May 1969, there was no headquarters of the Los Angeles Committee to Free Morton Sobell (LACFMS), and mail was received until 4/1/69 at a Los Angeles post office box, which is now closed.

[REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] has been composed  
[REDACTED] SOBELL now  
having been freed by Federal Penitentiary, the  
Committee is disbanded.

- P\* -

DETAILS:

The Los Angeles Committee to Free Morton Sobell will be abbreviated as the LACFMS; Committee to Free Morton Sobell will be abbreviated as the CFMS.

SCOPE

LA T-2 [REDACTED]

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

LA 100-41648

CHARACTERIZATION

LA T-3 (4/17/68)

The LACFMS (see CFMS Appendix) is the Los Angeles, California affiliate of the CFMS.

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York on March 29, 1951, on a charge of Conspiracy to Commit Espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The ROSENBERGS were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on the same date. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing-Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953, and MORTON SOBELL is currently serving his sentence at the Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

LA T-3

Between October 1968, and May 1969, the aim and purpose of the LACFMS was to work on behalf of MORTON SOBELL, and obtain support and publicity for further legal action to obtain freedom which was secured on January 14, 1969.

HEADQUARTERS

b7d

LA 100-41648

[REDACTED]  
LA T-1 [REDACTED] b7d

The Morton Sobell Committee had been receiving its mail at Post Office Box 8652 Los Angeles, California, 90008, until April 1, 1969, at which time the Post Office Box was closed.

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

ACTIVITIES

[REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7d

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG in June, 1953, the 'Communist Campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon MORTON SOBELL', the ROSENBERGS' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case' ...."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The Address Telephone Directory for the Borough of Manhattan, New York City, published by the New York Telephone Company on April 12, 1968, lists the above Committee's address as 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Los Angeles, California  
May 8, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 100-41648

Title	COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL
Character	INTERNAL SECURITY - C INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950
Reference	Report of SA [REDACTED] b7C dated and captioned above, at Los Angeles.


All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT Rosenberg/Sobell Comm.

SERIAL 6608 DATE 5-15-69

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DATE

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

CHICAGO

NEW YORK

MAY 22 1969

5/22/68-5/17/69

TITLE OF CASE

REPORT MADE BY

COMMITTEE TO FREE  
MORTON SOBELLSA [REDACTED] b7c  
CHARACTER OF CASEIS-C  
ISA, 1950

REFERENCES: Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 5/22/68,  
at Chicago.  
Chicago letter to Director, captioned as above,  
dated 11/22/68, with copies to New York.

- RUC -

ENCLOSURES

TO THE BUREAU

Enclosed are two copies of revised characterization of  
Chicago Sobell Committee for Bureau approval reflecting that the  
Chicago Sobell Committee has terminated as a committee.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED				INONE	ACQUIT-	CASE HAS BEEN
CONVIC. AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	TALS	RETURNING OVERNIGHT
						REVIEWING OVERNIGHT
						OVER SIX MONTHS

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

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DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Notations

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Version	
Request Made	
Date Made	
How Made	
By	

- A -  
COVER PAGE

CG 100-25530

ADMINISTRATIVE

The attached report has been classified "~~CONFIDENTIAL~~" because it contains information furnished by CG T-1 and CG T-2, informants of continuing value, the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably result in the identification of these informants and have an adverse effect on the national security.

Copies of this report are being furnished to Region I, 113th MI Group, Evanston, Illinois, OSI and NISO, Chicago, Illinois, because of their continued interest in this organization.

DAVID L. SOLTKE and Mrs. DAVID (GERTRUDE) SOLTKE who are mentioned in this report as the leaders of the Chicago Sobell Committee are Security Index subjects of the Chicago Division.

INFORMANTS

Source

Location

CG T-1.

CG T-2.

CG T-3,  
Anonymous

CG T-4.

Information regarding  
DAVID L. and GERTRUDE SOLTKE

Information regarding Mrs.  
DAVID (GERTRUDE) SOLTKE

- B -

(COVER PAGE)

CG 100-25530

NEGATIVE CANVASS OF INFORMANTS

Source

Date of Contact

Contacting Agent

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

B-7D

B-7C

- C -

(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1-Region I, 113th MI Group, Evanston (Via Courier)  
 1-OSI, Chicago (Via Courier)  
 1-WISO, Chicago (RM)

Copy to:

Report of:  
Date:SA [REDACTED] *B-R*

MAY 21 1968

Office: CHICAGO

Field Office File #: 100-25530

Bureau File #: 100-387835

Title: COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

Synopsis: The Chicago Sobell Committee (CSC) was an affiliate of the Committee to Free MORTON SOBELL. The CSC on 4/30/69, vacated its office in Room 714 of the Ogden Building, 192 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, and DAVID SOLTNER advised that the CSC was terminating as a committee. The CSC was directed by SOLTNER and he was assisted by his wife, GERTRUDE SOLTNER. [REDACTED] Informants were unable to furnish any additional information regarding CSC. *B-7D*

- RUC -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Group

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

CG 100-25530

DETAILS:

The following organizations mentioned in this report which have not been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450, are characterized in the appendix section of this report:

Chicago Sobell Committee (CSC)  
Committee to Free MORTON SOBELL (CFMS)  
Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Chicago Chapter  
Fair Play for Cuba Committee

I. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE -  
SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The CSC was composed solely of the Chicago Area Chapter and was an affiliate of the CFMS. The purpose of the CSC was to work in behalf of MORTON SOBELL and obtain support and publicity for further legal action to obtain his freedom.

(CG T-1, [REDACTED] B-7D)

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in United States District Court (USDC), Southern District of New York (SDNY), on March 29, 1951, on a charge of Conspiracy to Commit Espionage on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The ROSENBERGs were sentenced to death on April 8, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment on the same day. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing-Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on January 19, 1953. MORTON SOBELL was released from the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, on January 28, 1969, after serving more than 18 years.

## II. TERMINATION OF THE CSC

The CSC was directed by DAVID SOLTKEr and he was assisted by his wife, GERTRUDE SOLTKEr. The CSC on April 30, 1969, vacated its office in Room 714 of the Ogden Building, 192 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, and DAVID SOLTKEr advised that the CSC was terminating as a committee because MORTON SOBELL had been granted his freedom and there was no longer any need for the committee.

[REDACTED] b-7D  
Ogden  
Building, 192 North Clark Street,  
Chicago, Illinois, on 5/6/69)

CG T-1 furnished substantially the same information as set out above on May 13, 1969.

### DAVID L. SOLTKEr

The files of the Subcommittee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, as reviewed August, 1943, reflected that the name DAVID SOLTKEr appeared as a signer to the Communist Party (CP) Election Petition submitted to the State of Illinois in 1940.

On October 21, 1960, DAVID SOLTKEr was in attendance at a public meeting sponsored by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) entitled "Report from Cuba" held at Chicago. Featured speakers were ROBERT TABER, former CBS correspondent and Executive Secretary of the National FPCC, and CARLTON BEALS, Chairman of the National FPCC.

(CG T-2, 10/26/60)

### Mrs. DAVID (GERTRUDE) SOLTKEr

The files of the Subcommittee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, as

reviewed in August, 1943, reflected that the name of Mrs. DAVID (GERTRUDE) SOLTNER appeared as a signer of the CP Election Petition submitted to the State of Illinois in 1940.

GERTRUDE SOLTNER as of 1943 was a member of the CP.

(CG T-3, 1943)

### III. FINANCES

[REDACTED]

(CG T-1, [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

The above information is not to be made public except in the usual proceedings following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum to the President of the Amalgamated Trust and Savings Bank or his designated representative.

B-7D

### IV. ACTIVITIES

The CSC on December 7, 1968, held a "White Elephant Sale" at 4812 South Greenwood, Chicago. The purpose of this affair was to raise funds for the legal aid of MORTON SOBELL. Approximately 30 people were observed in attendance at the affair.

(CG T-1, 1/7/69)

Confidential informants who are in positions to have some information concerning CP and/or CP front groups in the Chicago area were contacted during March and April, 1969, and they advised that they could furnish no additional information regarding the CSC.

1

APPENDIX

CHICAGO SOBELL COMMITTEE (CSC)

On May 10, 1968, [REDACTED] Ogden Office Building, 192 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised that the CSC rents Room 714, 192 North Clark Street, Chicago. b7D

A source advised on May 13, 1968, that the CSC is the Chicago affiliate of the Committee to Free Morton Sobell which has its headquarters in New York City. Source further advised that DAVID L. SOLTNER is the guiding force behind the CSC and is assisted by GERTRUDE SOLTNER, his wife.

A second source advised on April 9, 1968, that the CSC [REDACTED] b7D

The above information cannot be made public except in the usual proceedings following issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The files of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, as reviewed in August, 1943, reflected that the names of DAVID and GERTRUDE SOLTNER appear as signers of the Communist Party Election Petition submitted to the State of Illinois in 1940.

A third source in 1943 advised that GERTRUDE SOLTNER as of 1943 was a member of the Communist Party.

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' co-defendant'. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case'...."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The Address Telephone Directory for the Borough of Manhattan, New York City, published by the New York Telephone Company on April 12, 1968, lists the above Committee's address as 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE,  
CHICAGO CHAPTER

A source advised in October, 1960, that the Chicago Chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) was formed during the summer of 1960 at Chicago, Illinois, under the direct guidance and leadership of RICHARD CRILEY, a member of the State Committee, Communist Party (CP) of Illinois.

A second source in August, 1960, furnished a leaflet entitled "What Is Really Happening in Cuba?" distributed by the FPCC in Chicago. The aims and purposes of the FPCC as set forth in this leaflet include the following: "To disseminate the truth; to combat untruth; to publish and distribute factual information which the United States mass media suppresses. In general, to contribute to foundations for peace, friendship, and understanding between ourselves and the Cuban people." The leaflet reflects the FPCC plans to accomplish these aims: "By mailing of information bulletins; organizing public meetings and forums; providing speakers, movies, and slides for meetings of interested organizations, placing ads in newspapers; to visit Cuba and see for themselves what conditions really are."

A third source advised on March 9, 1964, that there has been no activity of the FPCC in Chicago since late November, 1963, and for all intents and purposes the organization is defunct.

The mailing address for the FPCC, Chicago Chapter, is Post Office Box 4474, Chicago 80, Illinois.

## APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper, contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening in Cuba," placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961, reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. CHARLES A. SANTOS-BUCH identified himself and ROBERT TABER as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and TABER obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the aforementioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. This source added that during the past year there had been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that their influence as of May, 1963, was negligible.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that VINCENT "TED" LEE, FPCC National Office Director, was then formulating FPCC policy and had indicated that he had no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. This source stated that LEE believed that the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and should support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations. LEE did not advocate supporting the Cuban revolution per se.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~2APPENDIX

The November 23, 1963, edition of "The New York Times" reported that Senator THOMAS J. DODD of Connecticut had called FPCC "the chief public relations instrument of the Castro network in the United States." It is to be noted that Senator DODD was a member of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which twice conducted hearings on the FPCC.

The December 27, 1963, edition of "The New York World Telegram and Sun" newspaper stated that the pro-CASTRO FPCC was seeking to go out of business and that its prime activity during its lifetime had been sponsorship of pro-CASTRO street rallies and mass picket lines, and the direction of an anti-Communist propaganda mill highlighting illegal travel-to-Cuba campaigns. For comparatively brief span of life was attributed to mounting anti-CASTRO American public opinion, the 1962 Congressional hearings which disclosed FPCC financing by CASTRO's United Nations Delegation, and ultimately, the bad publicity which the FPCC received from disclosure of activities on its behalf by suspected presidential assassin LEE H. OSWALD.

On February 6, 1964, the previously mentioned second source advised that V. T. LEE had recently remarked that the FPCC was dead and that there were no plans to create another similar organization.

On April 13, 1964, a third source advised that there had not been any FPCC activity in many months, and that the FPCC had been dissolved.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois

May 22, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. CG 100-25530

Title COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950  
Reference is made to report of Special Agent  
b7c [REDACTED] dated and captioned  
as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities  
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable  
information in the past.

CONFIDENTIAL

New York, New York

NYfile 100-387835  
NYfile 100-107111

MAY 22 1969

was COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL  
Internal Security - C  
Internal Security Act, 1950  
Subversive Organization Characterization

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist Campaign' assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell, the Rosenbergs' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953, and then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case."

"Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee To Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

[REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Bureau (RM)  
New York (100-903111) (Subversive Organization Characterization) (61)  
New York

CLASSIFIED BY 4013 AP/LIA 3/8/78  
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 1  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6612 DATE 6-6-69

CONSISTING OF 17 PAGES of which  
pages 7, 8, 13, 15

<sup>ARE</sup> ~~is~~ exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number ~~0000~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 6/6/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/68-5/15/69
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c	TYPED BY mpr
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS-C IS Act, 1950	

## REFERENCES:

New York report of SA [REDACTED] 11/8/68. b7c

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

Copies of this report have been designated for interested local intelligence agencies.

Information copies of this report have been furnished to field offices having active CFMS committees or which are reported to have been involved with recent CFMS activity.

By separate communication, the NYO is furnishing

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	PUB.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED [Signature]						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:						100-107111-6612 6 - Bureau (100-387835) (RM) 4 - 108th MI Group, NYC (RM) 1 - 2nd OSI District, USAF, NYC (RM) 1 - NISO, NYC (RM) 3 - New York (100-107111) (1 - 100-NEW) (ROSENBERG-SOBELL Committee) (44) (Copies Cont'd)		
Examination Record of Attached Report						SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED FILED ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE		
Agency	APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF [Signature]					Notations CLASSIFIED BY 4912 BF/ [Signature] 3/9/78 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE		
Request Sent	DATE 11/10/68					CONFIDENTIAL GPO : 1969 O - 290-088		

Classified - 5/10/78

NY 100-107111

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- 1 - Seattle (100-22197) (INFO) (RM)
- 1 - Washington Field (100-25474) (INFO) (RM)

ADMINISTRATIVE (cont'd)

a revised characterization for CFMS.

The NYO is opening a new 100- case on the "ROSENBERG-SOBELL COMMITTEE" and will conduct investigation to determine the scope of activity of this organization.

Officers and office employees of CFMS as of 4/9/69, are on either the SI or RI-B of the NYO.

This report is classified "Confidential" because it contains information from NY T-1 through NY T-11, the unauthorized disclosure of which might identify these sources and adversely affect the national defense.

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

NY T-1

Characterization  
of FRANK MILLER

File Number Where Located

NY 100-107111

INFORMANTS (cont'd)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
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NY T-2 [REDACTED]	Characterization of EVELYN HARAP
----------------------	-------------------------------------

NY T-3 [REDACTED]	Characterization of MARGARET BLAU
----------------------	--------------------------------------

NY T-4 Former NY 1219-S*	Characterization of AARON KATZ
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------

b7d

NY T-5 [REDACTED]	Characterization of EMILY ALMAN
----------------------	------------------------------------

NY T-6  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NY T-7 [REDACTED]	Characterization of SAM KAMEN
----------------------	----------------------------------

NY T-8 [REDACTED]	Characterization of FRANK MILLER
----------------------	-------------------------------------

NY T-9  
[REDACTED]

100-66229 - 1298

[REDACTED] Chemical  
Bank NY Trust Co. (Request)

NY T-10  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NY T-11  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 4 - 108th MI Group, NYC (RM)  
1 - 2nd OSI District, USAF, NYC (RM)  
1 - NISO, NYC (RM)

Report of: [REDACTED]  
Date: 6/6/69

Office: New York, New York

Field Office File #: 100-107111

Bureau File #: 100-387835

Title: COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

Synopsis: [REDACTED]

-C-

DETAILS:

For purpose of brevity, the Committee to Free MORTON SOBELL will be abbreviated as CFMS throughout this report.

A characterization of CFMS is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

49:3 8/1/69 3/4/75  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED]  
DATE 11/11/69

Group I  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

NY 100-107111

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in the United States District Court (USDC), Southern District of New York (SDNY), on March 29, 1951, on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The ROSENBERGS were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on the same date. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953. MORTON SOBELL was released from federal custody on January 14, 1969 and will be on probation until May 14, 1981.

I. DISSOLUTION

b7d [REDACTED] advised on January 13, 1959, that EVELYN HARAP was a member of the Chelsea-Lincoln Square section of the Communist Party (CP), and she left the CP in the Spring, of 1958. b1

[REDACTED]

b1

NY 100-107111

On February 2, 1944, [REDACTED] b7d  
[REDACTED] an admitted  
member of the CP, from [REDACTED]  
to [REDACTED] identified HELEN  
GUREWITZ (HELEN SOBELL) as a  
member of the Education and  
Literature Committee of the  
CP in Washington, D.C., as of  
February 1, 1944.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b1

A. Formation of New Committee:

[REDACTED]

b7d During 1950, [REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED]  
advised that the SOBELL Family  
resided at that address from  
1931 to 1940 and during this  
period, Mrs. ROSE SOBELL asked  
him to join the CP on several  
occasions. [REDACTED] did not know  
ROSE SOBELL to be a member of  
the CP or any CP front organizations.

NY 100-107111

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1

b7d On October 20, 1954, [REDACTED] a member of the CP [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] advises that LEAH SCHNEIDER had been an active member of the City Branch of the CP in Austin, Texas. [REDACTED] advises that because of SCHNEIDER's alien status, extra security precautions were taken to conceal her CP membership.

[REDACTED] advised during 1946, that EMILY ALMAN, and her husband were members of the East Side Club, Number 5, New York County CP, in 1946.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1

The 1968-69 Manhattan, New York telephone directory reflects that WA 9-9061 is listed to HELEN SOBELL.

II. OFFICERS AND KEY PERSONNEL

[REDACTED] b1  
b7d [REDACTED] advised on September 2, 1954, that MARGARET BLAU was the organizational secretary of the Fifth North Section, Upper Westside region, New York State CP, at one period during 1948-1950.

b7d [REDACTED] advised on April 27, 1944, that AARON KATZ was a member of the CP for six years and had been transferred into the Waterfront Section of the CP during December, 1944.

III. FINANCES

[REDACTED] furnished information during the period [REDACTED] revealing the following balances in the CFMS New York bank account:

Date

Amount

b7d

NY 100-107111

All of above check information is not to be made public without the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum directed to [REDACTED] Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

██████████ advised on June, 22, 1966 that SAM KAMEN attended the opening session of the 18th CP, USA, National Convention held in New York, New York, on June 22, 1966.

NY 100-107111

b1  
[REDACTED]  
b7d [REDACTED] advised on June 26,  
1961, that FRANK MILLER  
attended various CP meetings  
during and after World War II. b1

[REDACTED]

b7d [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7d [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1

NY 100-107111

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On March 14, 1969, [REDACTED] advised that the CFMS sponsored a reception for MORTON and HELEN SOBELL which was held on March 9, 1969, in the Americana Hotel, New York, New York, and approximately 700 people were in attendance. The greater part of the audience were elderly and only a few teenagers and young people were observed.

Both HELEN and MORTON SOBELL gave thanks to the CFMS representatives from Chicago, Vancouver, Washington, Syracuse, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, who were attending this reception.

MORTON SOBELL mentioned that he will attend school for a few years to become an engineer once more.

He stated that publishers had approached him and he has committed himself to write a book during the next year or so.

[REDACTED] advised that many people in the audience handed HELEN SOBELL envelopes and gift wrapped packages while she was standing in the reception line at above affair.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~APPENDIX1.COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago, in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case'...."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

The Address Telephone Directory for the Borough of Manhattan, New York City, published by the New York Telephone Company on April 12, 1968, lists the above Committee's address as 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

June 6, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bufile 100-387835  
NYfile 100-107111

Title Committee To Free Morton Sobell

Character Internal Security-C  
Reference Internal Security Act, 1950  
is made to report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 67C  
and captioned as above at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6613 DATE 6-10-69

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES of which  
page 3

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] **b7d**

FROM : SA [REDACTED] **b7c**

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] **b7d**

DATE: 6/10/69

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)  
☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R  
☐

Dates of Contact 6/2/69		
Titles and File #s on which contacted		
Purpose and results of contact		
<input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STATISTIC		
1-100-107111 (SOBELL COMMITTEE) (44) 1-100-89559 (MARSHALL PERLIN) (45)		
AEC: amw (3)		
NA Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating EXCELLENT	Coverage

100-107111-6613

ARCHIVED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

FBI NEW YORK

**b7c**

b7d

[REDACTED], who has furnished reliable  
information in the past, made available to SA  
[REDACTED] concerning [REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] confidentially.  
Source's name is not to be disclosed in report or  
otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that  
he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing. b7D

The source no longer has custody of the basic  
documents from which [REDACTED] was  
obtained. b7D

The original FD-302 is maintained in  
[REDACTED] (INV).  
b7d

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 6617 DATE 7-15-69

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES of which  
page 3

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] b7d

DATE: 7/15/69

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7c (42)

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7d

☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R

☐

Dates of Contact

7/1/69

Titles and File #s on which contacted

Purpose and results of contact

☐ NEGATIVE

☒ POSITIVE

☐ STATISTIC

1-100-107111 (SOBELL COMMITTEE) (44)

1-100-57695 (YSOBEL SANDLER) (45)

AEC:rlp

(3)

☒ Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

EXCELLENT

Coverage

100-107111-667

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 15 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

b7c [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who has furnished reliable  
information in the past, made available to SA

b7d

[REDACTED]

Information herein obtained confidentially;  
source's name is not to be disclosed in report or  
otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that  
he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing.

The source no longer has custody of the basic  
documents from which [REDACTED]

b7d

The original FD-302 is maintained in  
[REDACTED]

b7d

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, New York (100-107111)

DATE: 7/22/69

FROM : Director, FBI (100-387835)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL  
IS - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Reurcharacterization of captioned organization  
dated 5/29/69.

This characterization should be resubmitted to  
indicate the reason why the organization held its final  
meeting on 4/9/69.

The revised characterization should reach the  
Bureau by 7/28/69.

100-107111-6618



Ce

CONFIDENTIAL  
New York, New York

Bufile 100-387835  
NYfile 100-107111

JUL 23 1969 1400

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL  
Internal Security - C  
Internal Security Act, 1950  
Subversive Organization Characterization

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case'...."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee To Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

b1  
[REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - New York (100-90311)(Subversive Organization Characterization)(44)  
1 - New York

GSM:elf

4913 APR 28 1976  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

JAITHC:MOO  
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100-107111-6619

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 24 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

107

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC [REDACTED] b7d

DATE: 8/12/69

FROM : SA [REDACTED] (# 42) b7c

☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)

☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7d

## Dates of Contact

8/1/69

## Titles and File #s on which contacted


## Purpose and results of contact

☐ NEGATIVE

☒ POSITIVE

☐ STATISTIC

1-100-107111 (SOBELL COMMITTEE) (44)  
1-100-109849 (HELEN SOBELL) (45)

AEC: amw  
(3)

MA Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

EXCELLENT

Coverage

100-107111-6620  
SEARCHED... INDEXED...  
SERIALIZED... FILED...  
AUG 2 1969  
FBI - NEW YORK

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available to SA [redacted] bank records concerning the account named in the attached FD-302 on which pertinent information was recorded. b7c, d

Information herein obtained confidentially; source's name is not to be disclosed in report or otherwise unless it has been decided definitely that he is to be a witness in a trial or hearing.

The source no longer has custody of the basic documents from which the check information was obtained.

The original FD-302 is maintained in [redacted] b7d

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/13/691.

The following checks were among those drawn against the bank account of Sobell Committee:

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Bank of Deposit and/or Endorser</u>
6659	6/26/69	HELEN SOBELL	\$1,000.00	Westside Savings # 30205

The balance as of 7/31/69, \$193.08.

The above information is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is Mr. GEORGE MAJOR, Assistant Vice President, Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

On 8/1/69 at Chemical New York Trust Co.  
154 Fifth Avenue File # NY 100-107111

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 8/7/69

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-107111) (44)

FROM : SA ANTHONY E. CONSTANTINO (# 42)

SUBJECT: SOBELL COMM.  
IS-C

DATE: 9/10/69

## Identity of Source

[REDACTED] B-7D  
Furnished reliable  
information in the past.

## Date of Activity

Date Received

Received By

Location

[REDACTED] B-7C  
Instant memorandum

On [REDACTED] made available on a  
confidential basis information from [REDACTED]  
at the Chemical New York Trust Company, 154 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY. B-7D

[REDACTED] B-7D  
The above information is not to be made public except  
in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces  
tecum.

The person to be subpoenaed is [REDACTED] B-7C  
[REDACTED] Chemical New York Trust Company,  
154 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY.

1 - [REDACTED] B-7D  
AEC:amw  
(2) *amw*

100-107111-6621

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1969	
NEW YORK	

*[Handwritten signature and initials over stamp]*



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

CONFIDENTIAL  
New York, New York

BUFILE 100-387835  
NYFILE 100-107111

JUL 23 1969

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL  
Internal Security - C  
Internal Security Act, 1950  
Subversive Organization Characterization

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign' assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell, the Rosenbergs' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case'...."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee To Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

SOURCE: [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past.

- ② - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-90311)(Subversive Organization Characterization)(44)
- 1 - New York

CSM:slf

CLASSIFIED BY 4913 AP/202 3/5/75  
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DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

APPROVED AUG 7 1969

Date

JAN 11 1970

100-107111-6622

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 11 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

CONFIDENTIAL

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>10/30/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>9/25/69 - 10/27/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL, aka [REDACTED]</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] B7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>cae</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>IS - C; ISA, 1950</b>	

REFERENCE

Report of SA [REDACTED] San Francisco, 4/29/69

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that WARREN K. BILLINGS and ESTHER LAMPEL are [REDACTED] B7C

This report is classified confidential since data reported from SF T-1 through SF T-3 could reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise effectiveness thereof.

One copy of this report is being designated for Los Angeles for information because of the former close alliance between the SOBELL committees in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:		
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2 - 115th MIG, San Francisco (RM)		
1 - NISO, San Francisco (RM)		
1 - OSI, Travis AFB (RM)		
1 - Los Angeles (100-41648)(Info)(RM)		
② - New York (100-107111)(RM)		
1 - San Francisco (100-351171)		
[REDACTED]		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations
Agency		
Request Recd.		
Date fwd.		
How Fwd.		
By		

SF 100-35117

A revised characterization of captioned organization is being furnished to the Bureau by separate correspondence.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

File Where Located

SF T-1 is

SF T-2 is

SF T-3 is

SF T-4 is

SF T-5 is

SF T-6 is

B7d  
Characterization of  
BECCA TREUHAFT

Characterization of  
SIC IN PHINEA

Characterization of  
SIC IN PHINEA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to: 2 - 115th MIG, San Francisco (RM)  
1 - NISO, San Francisco (RM)  
1 - OSI, Travis AFB (RM)

Report of: [REDACTED] b7c  
Date: October 30, 1969

Office: San Francisco, California

Field Office File #: 100-35117

Bureau File #: 100-387835

Title: COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C;  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

Synopsis: The Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees (BACSC) held a meeting at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, on 4/11/69 to celebrate MORTON SOBELL's release from prison. ALBERT MALTZ was guest speaker. The BACSC was reported on 10/15/69 as defunct.

[REDACTED] b7d

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

SF 100-35117

DETAILS

A characterization of the Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees (BACSC) is contained in the appendix.

I. HEADQUARTERS

[REDACTED] B-20

SF 100-35117  
October 15, 1963

II. OFFICERS

WARREN K. BILLINGS and ESTHER LAMPEL have been Chairman and Secretary, respectively, for the BACSC.

[REDACTED] B-21

[REDACTED] informed on February 25, 1952, that ESTHER SKLAR, also known as ESTHER LAMPEL, was Communist Party (CP) organizer of Unit 18, City Terrace, Los Angeles County CP; that she had joined CP in 1928, and that, in 1935, she was reported as having been transferred from New York.

[REDACTED] stated SKLAR formerly had been a member of District 2, CP, New York, and when she first came to Los Angeles, she had been assigned to Unit J-4, Hollywood Section, Los Angeles County CP, and was Dues Secretary of that Unit.

[REDACTED] further stated that in 1938 ESTHER SKLAR, an unemployed millinery worker residing at 2422-1/2 Pomeroy Avenue, Los Angeles, California, who had held an executive position in Cap Makers Local 22, had attended the CP Workers School in Los Angeles, and was in 1938 assigned to the Needle Trades Unit 5, Industrial Section, Los Angeles County CP. b7D

The December 3, 1961, issue of the "People's World" (PW) newspaper identified WARREN K. BILLINGS as the person who was "recently" pardoned for his participation in the 1916 Preparedness Day bombing with TOM MOONEY.

The PW is a West Coast Communist newspaper published weekly in San Francisco, California.

On March 27, 1953, WARREN K. BILLINGS informed Special Agents of the FBI that he was not and had never been a member of the CP, but described himself as a "philosophical anarchist."

### III. ACTIVITIES

A meeting of the BACSC was held on April 11, 1969, at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, California, to celebrate MORTON SOBELL's release from prison. Admission was \$2.25 and approximately 120 individuals attended. JESSICA TREUHART acted as Mistress of Ceremonies and spoke for only a few minutes. On the platform with her were KAY COLE, DICK WERTHIMER, WARREN BILLINGS and ALBERT MALTZ. WERTHIMER also spoke briefly and thanked the audience for the money which had been contributed each time that he had to ask for it. A collection was taken and it was announced later

SF 100-35117

that \$500 had been collected. A tape was played of MORTON SOBELL and his wife. SOBELL spoke about how happy he was to see the youth of today acting rebelliously and how they used tactics with which the administration could not cope. The guest speaker, ALBERT MALTZ, compared SOBELL to other individuals he considered martyrs and he spoke about the relationship of man to the state and the relationship of man to his ideals. He talked about anti-Semitism in Poland and he noted that one of the first acts of the victorious Bolsheviks in Russia had been to make a phonograph record attacking anti-Semitism. He said that Lenin would not have even dreamed of anti-Semitism being used in a socialist state. He paid tribute to MORTON SOBELL, whom he said was imprisoned for a crime he did not commit but who did not falsely accuse others, confess, or bow his head. The meeting was adjourned by JESSICA TREUHAFT.

~~SECRET~~  
April 14, 1969

It is noted that JESSICA MITFORD is also known as Jessica Lucy Treuhaft, Decca Treuhaft and Mrs. Robert Edward Treuhaft.

It was announced at a meeting of the Communist Party (CP) held in [REDACTED] that DECCA TREUHAFT and her husband had resigned from the CP. b7d

~~SECRET~~  
May 1, 1968

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SF 100-35117

DICK WERTHIMER was a member of the Outer-Mission Club, Haskell Section CP of San Francisco, [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED]  
November 27, 1950

The 1967 membership list of the San Francisco Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) included the name RICHARD WERTHIMER, 345 Franklin Street, San Francisco.

SF T-6  
May 3, 1967

A characterization of the NLG is contained in the appendix.

The November 4, 1951, issue of the "San Francisco Chronicle," a San Francisco daily newspaper, in an article entitled "A Report on What Has Happened to the Hollywood Ten" reported that "all but one of the famous 'Hollywood Ten'--seven writers, two directors, and a producer--who startled the Nation and brought undying shame on the film business by taking jail sentences for contempt of Congress rather than speak up concerning their affiliation or sympathies with the CP, have turned to other fields for a livelihood. . . ." The article listed ALBERT MALTZ as one of the "Hollywood Ten" and reported that he was living in Cuernavaca, Mexico, writing a novel and a play.

The Fourth Report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California dated 1948 reported on Page 116 that "ALBERT MALTZ is an important Communist in the solar system of Communist front organizations." This

SF 100-35117

report also revealed that according to testimony before the Thomas Committee in Washington, D.C., on October 28, 1947, ALBERT MALTZ held CP Card Number 47196.

The Fifth Report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California dated 1949, reported on Page 498 that ALBERT MALTZ was one of ten individuals who have been affiliated with from 31 to 40 Communist front organizations.

SF T-1 corroborated that the BACSC meeting was held on April 11, 1969, at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, California. SF T-1 added that ESTHER LANPEL was in charge of the affair and that WARREN BILLINGS opened the meeting. DECCA TREUHART acted as Mistress of Ceremonies and an attorney took up a collection which amounted to \$500.

SF T-1  
April 23, 1969

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B-7D

SF 100-35117

BAY AREA COUNCIL OF SOBELL COMMITTEES,  
Also Known As  
Committee to Secure Justice For  
Morton Sobell, Northern California  
Council of Sobell Committees

A source advised on October 31, 1955, that the Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees (BACSC) was formed on October 17, 1955, in San Francisco, California, as the local affiliate of the National Sobell Committee to carry out the policies of the National Committee to obtain the freedom of MORTON SOBELL.

~~In April, 1959, a source advised that~~  
~~there was no formal headquarters of the BACSC.~~  
 B-7D

On December 18, 1959, a third source advised that MARY KRVAR, a member of the Warehouse Club, Communist Party (CP), East Bay Region, Oakland, California, and the paid organizer for the BACSC, has stated that the CP is interested in controlling the BACSC so that the BACSC will continue to follow the line of the National Sobell Committee in attempting to obtain the freedom of MORTON SOBELL.

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

"Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June, 1953, the 'Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell,' the Rosenbergs' co-defendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case - a Communist front which had been conducting a campaign in the United States - was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg - Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October, 1953, and 'then the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case'..."

("Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated December 1, 1961, issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, page 116.)

In September, 1954, the name "National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In March, 1955, the name, "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell", first appeared on literature issued by the Committee. In August, 1966, the name "Committee to Free Morton Sobell" first appeared on literature issued by the Committee.

A source advised [REDACTED] that Morton Sobell was released from prison on January 14, 1969, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

870

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

A source advised on May 6, 1969, that the San Francisco Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, which is affiliated with the National Lawyers Guild and follows its policies and directives, was organized in the summer of 1937, and is currently active in San Francisco, California.

APPENDIX

- 9 -  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

The House Committee on Un-American Activities, House report 3123, September 21, 1950, cites the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) as a communist front which is the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party (CP) and has never failed to rally to the legal defense of the CP and individual members thereof, including known espionage agents.

A source advised on February 1, 1969, that from the speeches made and the workshops and panel discussions held at a recent Midwest Conference of the NLG, it clearly appeared that the NLG is being developed from a "complacent, old left type organization" into a strong active supporter of the "new left".

A second source advised during April, 1969, that the President of the NLG spoke at an NLG banquet held in New York City on April 12, 1969, stating that the NLG has organized young people to work in a radical movement which is seeking to destroy a corrupt, violent society and replace it with one which will benefit all.

A third source advised on April 17, 1969, that the President of the New York Chapter of the NLG spoke at the above banquet stating that the purpose of the NLG is to advance the "social revolution" taking place in this country. In furtherance of this purpose, the NLG has established Student Guild Chapters and given counsel to draft resisters and military personnel seeking peace.

As of July 23, 1969, the NLG National Office was located at 5 Beekman Street, New York, New York.

- 10\* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~APPENDIX



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

October 20, 1969

Title COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - C;  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950

Reference Report of SA [REDACTED] B-7C  
dated and captioned as above,  
at San Francisco, California

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Rosenberg/  
Sobell committee

FILE NO. 100-107111

VOLUME NO. 135

SERIALS 6626

THRU

6636

File No: 100-107111Re: Rosenberg / Sobell CommitteeDate: 2/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
6626	1/12/70	INFORMANT REPORT to File	2	0	See NY 100-37158 F1108 1715 (PAGE 2 TO BE PROCESSED)
6627	2/2/70	INFORMANT REPORT to File	3	-	See NY 100-37158
6628	3/10/70	INFORMANT REPORT to File	2	0	<del>See NY 100-109549</del> PROCESSED FOR RELEASE
6629	5/5/70	SA LET TO SAC NY	1	1	
6630	9/28/70	SA Let to SAC NY (Helen Sobell)	1	-	See NY 100-37158
6631	2/26/71	SA Let to SAC NY	3	3	
6632	3/31/71	NY memo TO File	1	1	
6633	3/31/71	NY MEMO TO FILE (COPY OF ABOVE)	1	1	1 pg dup.
6634	6/13/74	TRANSFER SHEET (ORIGINAL SERIAL TO 100-177777)	1	1	
6635	4/10/74	SA Let to SAC WITH ATTACHMENT	2	2	
6636	2/20/75	Newspaper Clipping from "THE BIRD"	6	6	

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

100-387835

30 Nos.

Shut  
A. H. L.

44  
6/6/59

C. H. L.  
11/25/58

CLASSIFICATION NO.

100

10711

Serial

6626

Volume Number

135

FILE # 100 - 107111

SUBJECT

Rosenberg/Sobell Comm.

SERIAL

6626

DATE


1/12/70

CONSISTING OF

2

PAGES

of which  
page 2 (page 1 is presumptive)

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT

Rosenberg/Hedell Comm.

SERIAL

6628


DATE

3/10/70

CONSISTING OF

2

PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 

SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111)

5/5/70

SA [REDACTED]

b-7-C

COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL  
IS - C

Re memo of SA [REDACTED] dated 4/24/70.

b-7-C

[REDACTED] a characterization reflecting this cessation  
was submitted to the Bureau on 7/23/60.

b7d

Bureau approval of above characterization was  
returned to the NYO on 9/7/69.

1 - 100-90311 (Subversive Organization file) #44

① - 100-107111 #

CSM:slf

(2)

100-107111-6629

[REDACTED] b-7-C  
4 1970  
FBI - NEW YORK  
100

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

ce

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111)

DATE: 2/26/71

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b-7-C

SUBJECT: Committee to Free Martin Sabell

CHARACTERIZATION OF SUBVERSIVE,  
RACIAL, KLAN, WHITE HATE, AND  
MILITANT BLACK ORGANIZATIONS

THE DEADLINE FOR THIS PROJECT IS MARCH 26, 1971.

SAC Letter 71-7 instructed that an abbreviated characterization of two or three lines be submitted to the Bureau on all organizations on which full length characterizations were previously submitted. These abbreviated characterizations must be submitted to the Bureau by 4/1/70.

SA [REDACTED] is assigned to prepare an abbreviated characterization of captioned organization. b-7-C

In preparing the abbreviated characterization, it is not necessary to attribute information to any sources, but merely make a statement as to its subversive nature.

For your guidance, the following abbreviated thumbnail sketch of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been approved by the Bureau:

The PLP was founded in 1962 by individuals expelled from the Communist Party..USA, for following the Chinese communist line. Its objective is the establishment of a militant working-class movement based on Marxism-Leninism and MAO Tse-tung thought.

These abbreviated characterizations must be submitted to the Bureau for Bureau approval, and they should be submitted on letterhead stationery which should be prepared as follows:

JJE:ptp

100-107111-663

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 3 1971	
FBI - NEW YORK	

b-7-C [REDACTED]

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New York, New York  
(Do Not Date)

Bureau file  
New York file

Re: NAME OF ORGANIZATION  
ABBREVIATED CHARACTERIZATION OF SUBVERSIVE  
ORGANIZATION  
(CHARACTER OF CASE)

Place characterization here.

- 2- Bureau (File No. )  
1- New York (100-90311) (ABBREVIATED CHARACTERIZATION OF SUBVERSIVE  
ORGANIZATION)  
1- New York (File No. )

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_

NY

The copies to the Bureau will consist of the original and one copy. If approved, the Bureau will stamp "Approved" on one of its copies and return it to the New York Office.

Remember NOT TO DATE the letterhead memorandum to the Bureau and submit all memoranda to SA [REDACTED] BY MARCH 26, 1971, so that they may be submitted with a cover letter, prepared by SA [REDACTED] to reach the Bureau by 4/1/71.

b-7-C

cc

New York, New York  
Bureau file 100-387835      MAR 31 1971  
New York file 100-107111

Committee To Free Morton Sobell  
Abbreviated Characterization of  
Subversive Organization  
Internal Security - C  
Internal Security Act, 1950

Committee To Free Morton Sobell is a defunct  
communist front organized in 1953 to support  
Morton Sobell, a convicted Soviet espionage  
agent, and dissolved in 1969 after his  
release from prison.

- 2 - Bureau (100-387835)(RM)  
1 - New York (100-20311)(Abbreviated Characterization of  
Subversive Organization)  
1 - New York (100-107111)

GEN:slf

~~Handwritten signature~~

100-107111-663

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 2 1971	
FBI - NEW YORK	

b7c [REDACTED]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bureau file 100-367835 MAR 31 1971  
New York file 100-107111

New York, New York

Committee To Free Morton Sobell  
Abbreviated Characterization of  
Subversive Organization  
Internal Security - C  
Internal Security Act, 1950

Committee To Free Morton Sobell is a defunct  
communist front organized in 1953 to support  
Morton Sobell, a convicted Soviet espionage  
agent, and dissolved in 1969 after his  
release from prison.

- 2 - Bureau (100-367835)(RM)
- 1 - New York (100-90311)(Abbreviated Characterization of  
Subversive Organization)
- 1 - New York (100-107111)

CW:slf

FILE  
BY

APPROVED  
Date MAY 3 1971

100-107111-6633

67-C

# TRANSFER SHEET

File 100-107111 Date 6/13/74

Class. Case No. Last Serial

☐ Pending

☐ Closed

Date

Serial No.

Description of Serial

Date Charged

6634

transferred to 100-179997



b-7-C

RECHARGE

Date

To From

Date charged

Employee

Location

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC

FROM : SUPERVISOR DONALD L. HARMON (#3A6)

DATE: APR 16 1974

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION SPONSORED BY  
JEWISH SOCIALIST COMMUNITY  
FBI OFFICE, APRIL 24, 1954

[REDACTED] b7-C  
[REDACTED] b7-D

that the Jewish Socialist Community was planning a demonstration at the FBI Office, Third Avenue and East 69th St., on Wednesday, April 24, 1974, at 5PM, and the public was invited. The demonstration is against the FBI for its frameup and murder of JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG.

Attached to this memorandum is a copy of the "Throw Away" [REDACTED] b-7-D

The local precinct and necessary action at this office is being handled.

DLH:lv

*Copy to NDC mailing  
SAC T. H. F. I.  
Super. Bldg.*



# DEMONSTRATE

## AGAINST THE F.B.I. FRAMEUP AND MURDER OF JULIUS & ETHEL ROSENBERG

On June 30, 1953 Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were electrocuted at Sing Sing prison for allegedly transmitting the secret of the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. Their co-defendant, Morton Sobell, served 19 years in federal prisons.

Investigations since the deaths of the Rosenbergs, especially those of Miriam and Walter Schneir, authors of *Invitation to an Inquest*, point to the innocence of the Rosenbergs and the likelihood of an F.B.I. conspiracy and frameup against them.

Despite these investigations, the F.B.I. still refuses to open its files on the case; like many other parts of the Nixon Government, it prefers cover-ups, and cover-ups of cover-ups.

As Jews we feel a special tie to the Rosenberg case. All of the principals in the case—the defendants, witnesses, lawyers, the Judge, and the D.A.—were Jewish. Anti-Semitism was used by McCarthyite America to attack the Left and silence the Jewish community. And Jewish Cold Warriors like Roy Cohn, Irving Kaufman, and Irving Saypol did the dirty work against their own people.

As socialists and radicals, we also feel a special tie to the Rosenberg case. It is a model of the conspiracy prosecution, the use of vague legislation, a corrupt F.B.I., a hanging judge, and coerced government witnesses in political trials that masquerade as criminal prosecutions. The government used the trial to mask its cold war—arms race policies, creating fears and threats to fool the public and silence the opposition. The same tactics are employed today. We have seen this throughout the 1960s and 1970s, in the trials of the Black Panther Party, the Chicago Eight, and many other radicals, and we see it now in the trials of the Attica brothers, the American Indian Movement, and the Black Liberation Army.

We cannot stand silent while this Watergate-like charade continues. Thus we are assembling outside the F.B.I. building to demand that the files in the Rosenberg-Sobell case be opened to public scrutiny.

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE F.B.I. FRAMEUP AND MURDER OF JULIUS & ETHEL ROSENBERG  
DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE F.B.I. FRAMEUP AND MURDER OF JULIUS & ETHEL ROSENBERG  
DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE F.B.I. FRAMEUP AND MURDER OF JULIUS & ETHEL ROSENBERG

F.B.I. Offices  
Third Avenue &  
East 60th St.  
Wednesday,  
April 24, 1974  
5:00 P.M.  
Public Invited

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

The Prosecutors: U.S. Attorney Irving Saypol and his assistants Myles Lane and Roy Cohn.

**SPONSORED BY THE JEWISH SOCIALIST COMMUNITY**  
For More Information About the Demonstration or the JSC, Write:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Morton Sobell

## "...it was their patriotic duty to convict us."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"The Bird".

Pages 8 and 9

2/20/75

Morton Sobell, who recently spent a weekend in Atlanta promoting his book, *On Dying Time*, was a co-defendant with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in the famous Cold War espionage trial. Convicted on the basis of circumstantial evidence, much of which was later discovered to be false (as Sobell describes in this interview), the Rosenbergs were executed for supposedly giving plans for the atom bomb to the Russians. Sobell spent 18 1/2 years in jail after conviction for supposedly participating in an espionage ring with the Rosenbergs.

Sobell's book gives a sketchy picture of his past. The real substance is his description of the climate of the early Cold War period, his own fears of political persecution, his sensational espionage trial, and his 18 1/2 long years in prison. Throughout this story runs the strong current of Sobell's sustained relationship with his wife and his struggle to keep his sanity while totally cut off from his previous life. Now in hard cover from Scribner's, the book will be out in paperback in September.

Interviewing for the Bird were Ted Brodek and Teresa Secules.

Date:  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

100-107111-6636

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 25 1975	
FBI - NEW YORK	

b-7

50? Bird: What was going on in the US in the early 50s?

Sobell: After the last war, when the US and the Soviet Union were allies, the US for one reason or another reversed its policy. Gradually the Cold War started to develop.

It is usual, in any situation where a government wants to shift gears, to stage political trials. There were quite a number of political trials preceding this one, starting with the trials of the Communists in NY in 1948. Technically concerning the Smith Act, this trial's actual purpose was to frighten progressives and Communists and ex-Communists into going underground. It succeeded.

Also in '48, the USSR exploded an atom bomb which created consternation in the ranks of the Establishment. They didn't visualize that a nation of peasants could explode an atomic bomb. They concluded that a spy stole the bomb for the Russians. And the FBI was out to find these spies.

Bird: How did you get involved in this?

Sobell: I was vulnerable at this time. I had been a member of the Communist Party but in 1947 when I went to work, I signed a non-Communist affidavit stating that I had never been a member of the party. It was false and I faced 5 years imprisonment. I had been a friend of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. I had a number of other left-wing associates. In addition, I had a very close friend who had signed two non-Communist affidavits. He faced ten years in prison and it didn't take much for the FBI to convince him to "co-operate." He simply pointed the finger at me. He accused me of being a member of a spy conspiracy. This is the ground work that preceded the trial.

Bird: When did you first know that you were being connected with the case?

Sobell: Both facing five years, my wife and I had taken a vacation away from the Cold War in Mexico to figure out what to do. When we first heard of the Rosenberg's arrest, we were certain they could not be spies. I panicked because I was afraid the government might try to connect me with this ridiculous charge.

We tried to get out of Mexico to Europe, but we couldn't; so we decided to come back. But before we could, the FBI got some of their henchmen down there to kidnap us and bring us to the border, where they arrested us. To cap it off, at the trial, the government claimed that we had been deported by the Mexican government.

When John Wesley did a book in 1953 about the case, he found out that the Mexican government had not only had nothing to do with it, but they had protested to the US government over the action.

Bird: Did people generally believe what the government was saying at that time? Did the possibility

that you weren't spies occur to them?

Sobell: The government propaganda in the late 40s and early 50s was really furious. Unlike the press and the radio today, they were at that time like arms of Washington. Everything that Washington issued the media printed and broadcast as if it was God's own truth. There was no critical questioning of the government.

In addition, all the left wing periodicals folded. People who had subscribed to them discontinued subscriptions because they knew the FBI kept lists of people who got left wing periodicals. Because the newspapers did not question government propaganda, people believed the government's picture of the Soviet Union as an enemy of the American people, ready to drop bombs.

The kids at this time were having atom bomb raid drills. Kids were getting under the desks as protection against an atom bomb. Getting under a desk was not going to solve the problem if an atom bomb fell. They were trying to frighten the children just as they were frightening the adults with all the propaganda. This demonstrates the ruthlessness with which they were pursuing their aims, and their aims were clear. The American people must be made fearful of the Russians, must be made fearful of the Communists, must be made fearful of any liberals who would question the government's actions.

In a trial under these conditions, I feel quite sure that the jury felt it was their patriotic duty to convict us. When an FBI agent testified against us or when a person took the stand under the aegis of the FBI, they were assumed to be truthful.

Under these conditions, I doubt if the jury really examined the evidence. Let me give you an illustration of what the jury was confronted with. One of the exhibits at our trial was a collection can which said on it: Save a Spanish Republican Child. A can for funds for the Spaniards who had fought against the fascist Franco, then escaped to France where they were living under miserable conditions in tents. The FBI agents had picked up this can in the apartment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg while arresting Julius. This was passed around to the jury as evidence that Julius and Ethel had passed the atom bomb on to Russia. The idea that a contribution can for a humanitarian cause would end up being evidence in an espionage trial is ludicrous. I remember the jury members examining the can very carefully, seriously.

Bird: Recently I have heard that the evidence at the trial was manufactured.

Sobell: During the trial, we were without funds, without organization, without anything. When the government came up with their crap, we had no way of combating it, no resources. It was almost a whole year before our support organization was formed. Most of the exposure of the trial came about after the executions.

For example, during the trial, the prosecutor presented a cross-section of the atom bomb. This was, according to the prosecution "the most important secret of mankind." It was evidence which was literally manufactured. The government witness, Greenglass, drew it after he was arrested. He said that this drawing was like the one he gave to Julius for transmission to the USSR. It was impounded after the trial. But during the trial, the prosecution put up what was supposed to be a scientist to authenticate the drawing. He said: "Yes, I know each and every detail of the atom bomb, after it had been perfected." This was 1951.

In 1956, after a furious court fight, we got the sketch un-impounded and gave it to a couple of real scientists. They examined it and said, "This is a caricature of the bomb. It has tremendous errors. It is something a child would draw."

When confronted with these affidavits in court, the government copped out and said, "Well, so it doesn't have any value; they still committed espionage."

This isn't the end. Two years ago one of my engineering journals had a run down on this John Derry who had been the atom bomb "expert". The man who said he knew each and every detail of the bomb was, it turns out, in charge of construction at Los Alamos. Not construction of the bomb, but construction of the building! Why did they put John Derry on the stand? If they really had a scientist under oath, looking at the sketch, he couldn't truthfully say, "This is the bomb."

*Bird: Why didn't your lawyers get a scientist to combat this testimony?*

Sobell: This goes back to the period. A scientist would have had to have a clearance from Washington to testify, first of all. Secondly, our lawyers really were taken in by the government propaganda; hook, line and sinker. They couldn't believe that the government would put up a phoney sketch and a phoney scientist. They never dreamed that the government would conduct a case like this.

But more than that, our lawyers did not conduct an aggressive defense. They were really frightened. You must remember that the lawyers who defended Communists just a year before, all went to jail - up to six months imprisonment for conducting a vigorous defense. This had a chilling effect on all the lawyers after that. While our lawyers were brave in taking on this case, their bravery and courage did not go far enough.

The jury brought back a verdict of guilty, of course - it was fore-ordained. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were given the death penalty. I don't think the government ever thought they would have to carry out the execution. I think they felt that Julius would then cooperate with them. From my first interview with the FBI, they never stopped propositioning me. They wanted me to implicate somebody - make a story up to get someone involved.

In 1952, after I lost the appeal, they threatened to send me to Alcatraz; again the proposition was, if you cooperate, we won't send you to Alcatraz. The idea of getting some innocent person involved, just to save my own neck, didn't appeal to me. So I spent five years in Alcatraz. After my support committee began to put pressure on the prison department, I was moved to Atlanta Penitentiary for five and a half years.

*Bird: What did you do while you were in prison? How did you survive it?*

Sobell: Alcatraz was a devastating place. We were completely cut off from the outside - no newspapers, no radio. My wife could visit about an hour and a half a month in a booth with glass in between. All I could do there was study and write two letters a week.

On the outside, Helen was working with the defense committee. The committee got a tremendous amount of support from all over the country. In Atlanta, we had a lot of people helping us - Quakers, Martin Luther King. He got a lot of slack from his supporters for putting himself on the firing line for me.

People have said to me, "We're sorry you had to waste all that time." I don't look at it as a waste. I studied, trying to keep my expertise in engineering alive. Politically, I was trying to develop. If I had the choice, I wouldn't have chosen to be there. But since I was, my wife and I decided to make the most of it.

*Bird: Could you compare your prison experience to the experiences Solzhenitzyn described in Soviet prisons?*

Sobell: The only thing I have read by Solzhenitzyn was "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" and what amazed me at that time was that while Solzhenitzyn thought he was describing a very particular prison experience, he was really describing universals.

While the guards on The Rock didn't beat me up, the psychological pressure that place put on every one was fantastic. I couldn't touch my wife's hand

for five and a half years. Helen says that after I got to Atlanta, where we were allowed to hold hands, it took me a year to loosen up. The tension, the psychological pressure which was induced on the Rock was that great.

Eight of us came from Alcatraz to Atlanta, and after two months, three of them asked to go back to the Rock. The Rock was so rigid that the people there became rigidified, and they couldn't stand the relative freedom here in the Atlanta Penitentiary. It really frightened them to have to make a decision. At the Rock you had no decision, and it made people into zombies.

The effect that Solzhenitzyn described in his prison camp was much the same. He was really describing things that were common to all prison systems. This is why when people talk to me about reforming prisons, I say baloney; prisons can't be reformed, they have to be abolished. What about the murderers? All right, we won't argue about the 5% of prisoners, but for the other 95% prisons do no good. To take a person from the outside and put them into a rigid, closed atmosphere does not prepare them for life outside. He couldn't cope outside to begin with and you are making his ability to cope even less so. Is that helping society? What you have to do is to teach that person to cope. Some of the pressures inside prison are so great that no person should be asked to deal with them.

*Bird: What happened after you got out?*

Sobell: Everything was going for me. Two thousand supporters came to a party for me. I got back into school to catch up on 18 years of engineering. But yet, I had problems.

I'd wake up three times a week at night in cold sweats. I don't know quite why. I didn't have any dreams. The world was strange to me and I wasn't aware that I couldn't relate to it at that time. Shopping for a pair of pants was a problem to me. We take that for granted. And yet, after you're put away for 18 1/2 years it is a gigantic problem for you. The main thing that I had going for me which other prisoners don't is a tremendous amount of friends, most of whom I never met until my release.

The average person who comes out after being in for 18 1/2 years, has no ties with his new world. He has problems which are part of the fruits of imprisonment. This is why I think prisons should be abolished.

The idea people have that prisons help to restrain crime is really an atrocious brain-washing perpetrated on the American public. Most people say: Oh, no, we can't have all these criminals running around. There was a decision in Florida, that the state had to release 2,000 people from prison, there was no crime wave.

*Bird: What do you think would be the value of someone reading your book now for understanding what you went through in terms of the current situation? Would it help them deal with current conspiracy trials, or with repression?*

Sobell: I started writing this book when a lot of anti-war people were going to prison. My object was to show that it was possible to do time without going under - but you had to be political. You had to understand that you weren't merely being persecuted as an individual but as a political person. Decisions made at your trial had to be seen in political as well as legal terms. Lawyers are not just technicians. Defendants must be involved in decision making concerning the trial. Furthermore, you must understand that you are a part of history and if you do your part and you understand it well, then you can emerge not only unscathed but even a stronger, more political person than when you went in.

*Bird: Could the US at this time of international and domestic crisis generate an atmosphere of fear and mass psychosis like in 1949, resulting in similar kinds of trials reaching the same conclusions?*

Sobell: I don't think so. '49 was a very special

case. We had been through a war with the USSR as our ally. During the war, the left decided to co-operate with the establishment to knock out Hitler, the number 1 man. The effect was that the left was disarmed. After the war, somehow the left never got going again. Before they could get up any momentum, the establishment here started up the cold war and hit them over the head.

We have now a record of almost 20 years of uprising of the disinherited of this country, blacks, chicanos and all the Third World people starting with the Montgomery bus boycott in '56. It cannot be wiped out over night. This 20-year history is what will prevent the government from foisting another war on us to save the establishment.

If anybody gets arrested today, immediately people will jump in and support him and form a defense committee. By the time he goes to trial, at least the public--the potential jurors--will know about the issues. At least some lawyers--knowledgeable and political--will know how to fight the case.

*Bird: From your experience, what advice would you give to politically concerned people now?*

*Sobell:* When I speak to people who have a close connection with this case and know its history, many of them are unable to relate to the political cases of today. In NY now we have a real hot political case--Attica. A lot of people who understood back then that mine was a political case can't understand why it is necessary to support the Attica Brothers. They

think that these people shouldn't have taken hostages. They can't understand that when people are treated inhumanely, it's necessary for them to take whatever measures they can to bring things to a head.

You have a case down here--the case of the Charlotte Three: Parker, Reddy and Grant, who were accused of burning down a stable: they got 25 years, 20 years and 15 years for killing 15 horses. These people were activists. Their case parallels my case very closely. The people who testified against them were very vulnerable. One guy had a parole violation hanging over his head, and they were investigating him for some possible murders. They got them to finger these three activists to put them behind bars. There was very little support for them. Now several years later, it's getting more coverage, but why all this time? They had a hearing recently, and it seems to me that Judge Ervin, the son of the Senator, should really be bombarded with letters to decide for a new trial. The prosecution paid off the witnesses \$4,000 apiece and gave them a lot of other breaks. Clearly the case is a frame-up. Grant is here in the Atlanta Penitentiary now on a federal rap connected with this case.

*Bird: Thank you, we've learned from you.*

*Sobell:* And I've also learned. We have to learn from each other. The situation now is so much better than it was 5 years ago when the new left didn't think it had anything to learn from the old left. And the old left at that time thought they had all the answers, so both of us have come a long way in the last 5 years.

